



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park

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## New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### New Bedford named as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2011

*By National Trust for Historic Preservation*

New Bedford, MA— New Bedford has been selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2011. New Bedford's Waterfront Historic Area League, or WHALE, nominated the Massachusetts city. This South Coast city was selected for its seaport heritage, scenic beaches, abundant architectural and historical riches, diverse neighborhoods and a burgeoning arts community. From February 15 to March 15, New Bedford will be participating in a public online voting contest to select the 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations Fan Favorite. WHALE, along with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, is urging people to vote at this website: <http://www.preservationnation.org/>.

Jen Nersesian, superintendent of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park said, "The park is pleased and honored to have our city selected as one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations for this year. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is located in the heart of the historic district. Our stories are belong to the country and the world, as whaling touched almost every corner of the globe."

Lovers of New England's maritime history are in for a treat in New Bedford. The city was the 19th century whaling capital of the world, making this the richest city per capita in America for decades. Thanks to the foresight and determination of the city's preservationists, visitors can experience life as it was during New Bedford's whaling heyday. Its historic downtown, defined by cobblestone streets, period gas lamps and authentic 19th and 20th century buildings set the stage, while New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and associated sites tell the many stories of its whalers, merchants, artisans and whaling families. For those more interested in New Bedford's contemporary commercial fishing industry, visitors can poke along its working waterfront by taking the "dock walk" in the number one fishing port in America in terms of value of its catch.

But there's more to New Bedford than the sea! History buffs will also find lots to learn about Civil War history, including a Civil War-era fort. The Underground Railroad is an important part of the city's past and its rich industrial heritage is evidenced in its magnificent textile mills. These industries drew immigrants from around the world and the neighborhoods today still reflect that.

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Downtown's cafes, bistros, specialty shops, and artisan galleries are a worldly mix of the far-off and the close-to-home.

For those enjoying a satisfying meal, New Bedford offers a dizzying array of restaurants and cafes. And when a bit of rest and relaxation is called for, New Bedford offers inviting parks, including one designed by the Olmsted brothers. Breathtaking views of Buzzards Bay and miles of inviting sandy beaches will surely revive you.

Since 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Dozen Distinctive Destination program has recognized each year twelve cities and towns that offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture, cultural landscapes and a strong commitment to historic preservation, sustainability and revitalization. In each community, residents have joined together and taken action to protect their town's character. The public may vote for their favorite destination up to once per day until March 15 by going to the following website: <http://www.preservationnation.org/> and registering. There is no cost to register on the website.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established by Congress in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling industry. The park, which encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District, is the only National Park Service area addressing the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States. The National Park visitor center is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. It is open seven days a week, from 9 AM-5 PM, and offers information, exhibits, and a free orientation movie every hour on the hour from 10 AM-3 PM. The building is accessible, and admission is free.

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